

TEXAS

UNDER MANY FLAGS

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TEXAS BIOGRAPHY
By Special Staff of Writers

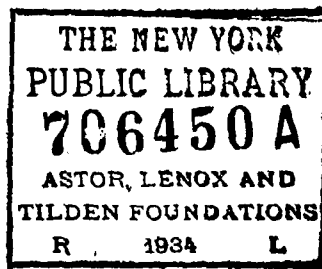
Issued in Five Volumes
VOLUME V

ILLUSTRATED

THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
CHICAGO AND NEW YORK
1930

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Mexico and later participated in the Civil war. Mrs. Mary Jane (Harrison) Burns died June 19, 1926, at the age of eighty years, one month and twenty-five days.

Robert Thomas Burns grew up on a farm, followed farming during his early manhood, and through his own efforts educated himself for his career as a lawyer. He began practice in Hillsboro, and in 1910 was elected a member of the State Legislature and re-elected in 1912. He served in the Thirty-second and Thirty-third Legislatures. In 1916 he was chosen county judge of Hill County, holding that office for two terms.

On leaving the office of county judge he was appointed superintendent of the Goree State Farm, and after four years in that position he located at Huntsville, where he has since engaged in a general law practice. In November, 1925, he was appointed city attorney, but resigned March 31, 1926, to become county attorney, and has since been elected county attorney.

Judge Burns married, December 17, 1899, Montie Owens, who was born in Tryon, Georgia, daughter of William M. and Eliza Jane (Henderson) Owens. The children of their marriage are: Estella May, wife of Malvin Stewart, of Huntsville; Gordon Milton, attorney; Nellie P., a teacher; Irene, also teaching school; Robert T. and Thala, both at home. Judge Burns is a steward in the Methodist Episcopal Church, is a Democrat, and a Royal Arch Mason. He is a member of the Walker County Bar Association and the Chamber of Commerce.

WILLIAM LUTHER DEAN, head of the law firm Dean and Humphrey at Huntsville, has made a notable record both in the law and in public affairs, at various times having assumed the responsibilities of public service in connection with the state government and such institutions as community and state.

Mr. Dean was born in Madison County, Texas, April 3, 1866, son of William Julius and Mary (Robinson) Dean. His father was a native of Alabama and his mother was born in Madison County, Texas. His grandfather, Starling Dean, came from Alabama to Texas in 1846 and spent the rest of his life on a farm. Mr. Dean's maternal grandparents were George Washington and Catherine (Allphin) Robinson, natives of Texas. George W. Robinson was a physician and farmer, and was one of the Texans who fought for independence from Mexico, being wounded in the battle of San Jacinto. William J. Dean and wife after their marriage settled in Madison County. He spent the rest of his life as a farmer and died November 3, 1919, while his wife passed away September 12, 1878. He was a Confederate soldier under General Johnston.

William Luther Dean was educated in country schools, grew up in rural surroundings, and completed his literary education in Southwestern University at Georgetown. He studied law in the office of M. Y. Randolph of Madisonville, was licensed to practice in October, 1890, and has given nearly thirty-eight years of his life to his profession. He first practiced at Madisonville, served one term as county attorney, and also represented Madison County in the Legislature one term. After ten years at Madisonville he removed to Huntsville, where he became associated with Thomas H. Ball and S. M. Randolph. With the death of S. M. Randolph one year later Thomas E. Humphrey entered the firm. Thomas H. Ball

removed to Houston in 1902 and in 1905 Ben H. Powell became a member of the firm, retiring in 1920. Since 1920 the firm has continued as Dean and Humphrey. Mr. Dean individually and through his firm has been identified with a large share of the litigation in the courts of Southeastern Texas.

In 1916 he was elected a member of the Senate, serving in the Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth Legislatures, until 1920. In this connection he rendered a conspicuous service as presiding officer of the Senate during the famous impeachment trial of Governor Ferguson. Another contribution he made to the current history of this time was the authorship of the Dean Act for state-wide prohibition.

Mr. Dean since 1918 has been president of the Board of Trustees of Southwestern University. He has farming interests, and is director and chairman of the board of the First National Bank of Huntsville. He is a Knight Templar Mason and Shriner, a member of the Texas Bar Association and for fifteen years a member of the Board of Stewards in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

He married, June 1, 1892, Miss Ella Corley, a native of Crockett, Texas, daughter of Dr. J. A. and Katie A. (Westmoreland) Corley. They had one daughter, Mrs. E. R. Berry, who was born October 4, 1893, and died October 5, 1918.

JOHN C. FERGUSON was born in Carroll County, Mississippi, March 1, 1877, son of John L. and Mary S. (Holman) Ferguson. They were also natives of Carroll County and in 1888 moved with their family to Madison County, Texas, where John L. Ferguson followed farming and stock raising until his death in 1901. He had been a deputy sheriff in Carroll County, Mississippi. His wife died in 1906.

John C. Ferguson has been a Texan for forty years, and during the latter part of that period has been prominently identified with business life in the city of Huntsville. He was educated in Carrollton, Mississippi, and at Midway, Texas, High School, and at the age of seventeen engaged in farming and stock raising, purchasing the old homestead of eighty acres near Midway. He remained in that vicinity until 1923, when he came to Huntsville. For four years Mr. Ferguson had charge of the laundry department of the State Prison and State Farm. Since 1927 he has been house manager of the Huntsville Star Automobile Company, handling the Oakland and Pontiac cars.

He married in September, 1896, Miss Bertha B. Mayfield, who was born at Washington, Texas, daughter of Tolbert and Lila (Fairburn) Mayfield. Her father was born in Mississippi and her mother in Alabama. Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson have six children: Miss Velma Susan, at home; Charles T., who married Jewell Bailey, a high school teacher at Liberty Springs, Texas; Cody Gresham and John Leland, who are in Huntsville; Miss Lila Pearl; and Buren Buchanan, who is bookkeeper for his father.

Mr. Ferguson is a Baptist and has always been interested in Democratic politics. His brother, T. Ferguson, was in 1922 elected county judge of Madison County, making a long and strenuous campaign on a platform of opposition to the Ku Klux Klan and the anti-dipping law. He was an ardent supporter of Gov. James Ferguson. During the four years he was county